

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2009

(Approved on June 1, 2009)

Acting Chair Alex McPhedran called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:05 pm in Room 438 of the Maine State House. Members present included John Arsenault, Chief Dan Brooks, Stephan Bunker, Chief John Dean, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Representative Michel Lajoie, Geoffrey Maker, Walter Morris, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Jay Bradshaw, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Representative Dean Cray, Chief Darrel Fournier, Alan Johnston, Robert McAleer, Senator Richard Nass, Senator Joseph Perry, Representative Benjamin Pratt and David Wacker. Guests of the Fire Commission included William Vickerson, Counsel for the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters and Peter Rines from Maine Fire Training and Education.

A motion by Ron Green, seconded by Harty Norris, to accept the April 6, 2009 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The 2009 Spring Conference Committee reported that Maine Municipal Association is compiling the conference evaluations and initial results indicated that conference attendees were very satisfied. Most of the replies were good or excellent. The attendance numbers appeared to equal the previous conference. The vendors were also happy with their location and the ability to interact with the conference attendees. Fire Commission members inquired about the possibility that some vendors were unable to attend because they were at different conferences. Suggestions included considering co-hosting with other groups in 2010 and start the planning process earlier. The Fire Commission also hosted a roundtable discussion on the first night of the conference.

The Training Facilities Committee updated the Fire Commission on the May 1st public hearing on L.D. 1177 "*An Act To Establish the Maine Emergency Services Institute*" before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Chief Cammack introduced and explained the bill to the CJPS Committee and was followed by supporters and opponents to the bill. Fire Commission members discussed the issues and questions that were brought up at the public hearing and the upcoming work session. Several members suggested that the Fire Commission develop an issue paper addressing the key issues identified at the public hearing- the makeup of the Board, funding for the facility, and the role of the community college system in fire service training.

The Best Practices Committee announced that four Best Practice Awards were presented at the 2009 Spring Conference.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee reported that L.D. 1466 “*An Act To Establish the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission Length of Service Award Program*” is scheduled for public hearing on May 8th and work session on May 15th before the CJPS Committee. The Fire Commission was also notified that Penflex, Inc. submitted an invoice for services.

A motion by Jeff Maker, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission forward the invoice from Penflex, Inc. for services regarding the length of service award program and legislation submitted in 2009 to the Maine Chiefs Association. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Fire Commission members discussed submitting legislation increasing the maximum gross limit of personal vehicles with firefighter license plates. Several issues and questions raised by members included the need for legislation and how many firefighters were negatively affected by present law. Several members expressed concern that more information was needed before the Fire Commission could make a decision and suggested a committee be formed and report back with their recommendations.

Fire Commission members reviewed the “Bills of Interest” list and the updated information on the bills. Members received a request to further support L.D. 53 “*An Act To Permit the Use of a Common Flue for Oil and Solid Fuel Burning Equipment*” and to write a letter supporting the CJPS Committee’s minority amendment.

A motion by Charlie Soltan, seconded by Harty Norris, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission send a letter to the 124th Legislature in support of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee’s minority amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

The Fire Commission received an update on the decision to have Department of Health and Human Services caseworkers, rather than the State Fire Marshal’s Office, inspect kinship and foster homes in Maine. The plan was initiated as a cost saving measure and was opposed by the Department of Public Safety. DHHS and DPS have agreed to a one-year trial program that will allow DDHS caseworkers to initially conduct the inspections, followed by the SFMO. After one year, the program will be evaluated.

Fire Commission members discussed the Fire Commission’s summer schedule and considered canceling the July and August meetings. Members

decided to postpone the decision on the August meeting pending the results of the Legislative session.

A motion by Ron Green, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission cancel the July 6th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Service Commission, Acting Chair McPhedran adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette
Staff

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, August 3rd</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, September 14th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, October 5th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 2nd</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Tuesday, November 10th</u>	ELECTION DAY		
<u>Monday, December 7th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm

To Be Scheduled:

Tour of the New Hampshire Fire Academy